



City of Seattle
Department of Planning & Development

2009 SBC Code Solution

Section 104.5
Product Approvals
Release Date: February 25, 2011
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The following interpretation, policy or code alternate is intended to provide guidance to staff for consistency of review and is subject to change without notice. Application of this interpretation, policy or code alternate to specific projects may vary.

Code Issue:

Does DPD have a procedure for “blanket” product approvals?

Policy:

DPD does not provide product approval services for purposes of a blanket endorsement. DPD does encourage a manufacturer to seek approval of their product by one of the nationally recognized testing and evaluation organizations, such as ICC-ES, UL, Warnock-Hersey, and Omega Pointe Laboratories, and to obtain a report for their product. Once a manufacturer has received a report for their product, DPD will accept it as long as the report is valid¹.

However, DPD will consider the use of a product as a code alternate on a project-specific basis. If a code alternate is desired, the design professional for the project will be required to submit justification for our consideration, as provided for in SBC Section 104.5 Alternate Materials, Methods of Construction and Design. In addition to basic applicant and project information, the submittal must include the following:

- A description of the proposed alternate/modification (including the reason(s) for the request)
- A description of the code requirement (including the code edition and section(s))
- Copies of appropriate references, test reports, expert opinions, etc.

¹A product having a previously valid report that has expired may still be accepted by DPD if the applicable code provisions have not changed and if use of the product would not introduce a “critical” level of risk.



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For questions about whether this code solution applies to your project:

- *If you have submitted a permit application, contact the Building Code plan reviewer assigned to your application*
- *If you have not submitted an application, contact DPD Building Code Technical Support at 206-684-4630 or in person at the Applicant Services Center. Visit the Applicant Services Center website for more information about hours and location http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Permits/Process_Overview/Location_Hours/default.asp*



Construction Review & Inspection Quality

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